SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, it is a very important question. I demand a half-an-hour discussion on this question. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to give notice for that. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Stepping up of agricultural exports

@*145. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. have any plan to step up agricultural export; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government plans to promote export of agricultural commodities like superfine varieties of rice, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed foods, cashewnuts, spices, oilcakes, meat and meat products etc. in a big way. This is considered essential to step up investment in the agricultural sector, raise the income generation capacity in the rural areas and sustainable growth with equity in our exports. Government, therefore, attaches high priority to encourage the establishment of export oriented units (EOUs) in this sector. The units in this sector can now import capital goods and equipment easily at a concessional rate of duty. Various inputs and materials required in agriculture and allied activities have also been made freely importable. In case of items like rice, fresh fruits and vegetables, floriculture items, spices and processed foods where there is potential for rapid growth, Expert Groups were set up. Based on the recommendations of these Groups detailed Action Plans have been worked out and follow up action is being taken on them.

@Previously Starred Question 85, transferred from 30th July, 1993.

Upgradation of airports to international standards

*146. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to upgrade a number of airports in the country to international standards and to equip them to receive charter flights from abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the number of airports in Bihar which are likely to be upgraded to international standards in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Hyderabad airport is proposed to be upgraded to international standards.

Under the model airports scheme, space is being earmarked for immigration and customs clearance at the airports covered under the scheme so as to facilitate operation of chartered fligts carrying foreign tourists. The airports covered under the scheme, besides Hyderabad, are the following:—

Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna, Guwahati, Imphal, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Nagpur, Coimbatore, Calicut and Vadodra.

(c) National Airports Authority at present, has no plan to upgrade any airport in Bihar to international standards.

*147. (Transferred to 18th August, 1993

Delay in registration and transfer of shares

@*148. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that registration and transfer of shares lodged with the companies are getting delayed beyond statutory time limit;

@Previously Starred Question 108, transferred from 3rd August, 1993.